(c) whether it is also a fact that the source of supply, the quality of the weapon and their price, leave much to be desired; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether the deal is proposed to be reviewed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) During the year 2004-2005, no contract for any rifle or weapon has been signed with any vendor so far. However, in the year 2002-2003 and 2003-2004, Indian Army have procured various rifles and weapons from vendors in Russia, South Africa, Israel and Sweden after trial evaluations.

(c) The source of supply, quality of weapons and their prices are satisfactory.

(d) Does not arise.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle

1494. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has built up its own unmanned defence system like unmanned aerial vehicles and unmanned underwater vehicles so that our country gets closer to building up its own assemble of unmanned defence;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when such system is likely to be developed in the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. DRDO has developed two types of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles — Lakshya & Nishant. Development of Underwater autonomous vehicle has not been undertaken.

(b) The reusable Unmanned Aerial Target Vehicle Lakshya is used for training gun and missile crew. Nishant is used for battle field reconnaissance and damage assessment.

(c) Development work on underwater autonomous vehicles is planned to be undertaken by March 2005.